

Message Text

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ORIGIN DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01
CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00
EB-08 EPA-04 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-02 TRSE-00 H-02
INR-10 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-02
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS STATE 077584

FOR US DEL LOS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: LOS: WALL STREET JOURNAL ARTICLE OF 3/24

1. THERE FOLLOWS TEXT OF WALL STREET JOURNAL ARTICLE OF
MARCH 24 UNDER HEADLINE "SEA LAW CONFERENCE TO RESUME TUES-
DAY WITH DEEP PROBLEMS; MANY OFFICIALS SHARE GLOOMY FORE-
CAST; US TO MOVE ON MINING FIRM LICENSES."

2. BEGIN TEXT: GENEVA -- THE 158-NATION UNITED NATIONS
CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA IS STARTING ITS SEVENTH
AND PERHAPS FINAL SESSION TUESDAY. SINCE THE FIRST SESSION
IN 1973, THERE HAVE BEEN 39 WEEKS OF TALKS, BUT THE PROBLEMS,
CAUSED BOTH BY THE ENORMOUS LEGAL COMPLEXITIES AND THE SHEER
SIZE OF THE CONFERENCE REMAIN AS DEEP AS EVER.

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-- ELLIOT L. RICHARDSON, THE U.S. NEGOTIATOR, GIVES THE
SEVENTH SESSION ONLY A ONE-IN-THREE CHANCE OF SUCCESS AND
"IT IS MORE NEARLY TRUE THAN EVER BEFORE THAT THIS IS A
MAKE-OR-BREAK SESSION" HE STATED.

-- THIS GLOOMY FORECAST IS SHARED BY MANY OFFICIALS. "PER-

HAPS THIS CAN BE CALLED THE LAST OF THE LAST-CHANCE SESSIONS,
SAID ONE SECRETARIAT MEMBER.

-- REGARDLESS OF THE OUTCOME, THE US ADMINISTRATION HAS
SAID IT INTENDS TO GO AHEAD WITH LEGISLATION PERMITTING
MINING COMPANIES TO OBTAIN LICENSES FOR DEEP SEABED EXPLOI-
TATION OF NODULES RICH IN SUCH MINERALS AS COPPER, NICKEL,
COBALT, MANGANESE AND PETROLEUM.(SIC)

-- "THIS ISN'T AN ULTIMATUM," MR. RICHARDSON EMPHASIZED
BEFORE THE NEW ROUND OPENED. BUT THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT
THAT MINING OF THE DEEP SEABED WILL BEGIN DURING THE NEXT
DECADE AND MINING COMPANIES, IF THEY ARE TO MAKE THE RE-
QUIRED TECHNOLOGICAL INVESTMENT, HAVE TO BE ASSURED OF OB-
TAINING LICENSES.

-- OTHER ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE TO THE US AND OTHER WESTERN
COUNTRIES INCLUDE THEIR INSISTENCE OF COMPLETE FREEDOM OF
PASSAGE THROUGH, OVER AND UNDER INTERNATIONAL STRAITS, FOR
BOTH MILITARY AND COMMERCIAL VESSELS AND AIRCRAFT. LIA-
BILITY FOR POLLUTION IS ANOTHER ISSUE.

-- THE SEVENTH SESSION IS SCHEDULED TO LAST SEVEN WEEKS
WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF A ONE-WEEK EXTENSION.

END TEXT.
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